

# Volunteer View

*(A newsletter for IDNR State Park and Reservoirs Volunteers who have dedicated 50 + hours and are still active. Thank You!)*

## Spring 2010

### **And the Award goes to...**

Pictures and information taken from the Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs facebook page. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/INdnrstateparksandreservoirs> to check it out. Have you visited it lately?

At the IDNR Awards Banquet each year, we recognize SPR staff and volunteers for projects they accomplish as a team or as individuals. We have a great staff working hard to manage, preserve and interpret our properties while providing great recreation opportunities for visitors.



Above: Jerry Williams was recognized as the division's Volunteer of the Year for 2009. Jerry dedicates hours and hours each month to manage the food supply for the birds of prey at the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center at Hardy Lake. He assists with feeding and with funding purchases out of his own pocket at times.



Above: O'Bannon Woods State Park Staff, the WK Kellogg Foundation, Harrison County Parks and the Harrison County Community Foundation were recognized for their partnership in the Access to Recreation Initiative, which has brought over \$1 million in improvements in accessibility to the park, including a 1-mile fully-accessible nature trail at the nature center.



Right: The Nature Conservancy (represented by Joe Tutterow), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (represented by Lori Pruitt), the IDNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (represented by Gary Armstrong) and the staff of Spring Mill State Park received a Partnership Award for their united efforts to purchase and preserve the 318 acre Cave River Valley Natural Area, which is managed as an addition to Spring Mill State Park.

## ***Look out for the Zebras!***

Zebra mussels that is. The mussel has dark and light stripes on its shell. The stripes remind some people of the stripes on a zebra. Not all zebra mussels have stripes, some are entirely dark or light. The zebra mussel has a triangular shape shell and it is relatively small usually under 1.5 inches. The most notable feature is a tuft of fibers located at the hinge of the mussel. These byssal threads grow from the foot and through the hinge and allow the mussel to attach to hard surfaces. The threads produce a strong glue that allows the mussel to anchor in place. This attachment to hard surfaces is one of the ways it travels. They easily attach themselves to boats and trailers and can live for about a week out of water. Therefore the spread of this invasive species from waterway to waterway is help by people. The larvae can be found in water found in the bilge, bait bucket, ballast water, live well and engine cooling units and can live for a month in the contained water.

Boaters need to take a few steps to help reduce the spread of this invasive species:

→Remove all plant and animals from your boat.

→Before you leave a site, drain live wells and bilge water.

→Empty bait buckets on land at the site. When you get home, wash your boat ASAP. Allow it to dry at least 5 days before going to the next body of water, or disinfect everything that came into contact with the water with a 5% bleach solution.

→Learn more about zebra mussels and how to identify them. To view the list of known bodies of water in Indiana with zebra mussels visit [www.in.gov/dnr/invasivespecies/zebra\\_mussels\\_sightings.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/invasivespecies/zebra_mussels_sightings.pdf)

Here are the confirmed state park and reservoir sites with zebra mussels.

- Indiana Dunes State Park - Lake Michigan
- Tippecanoe River State Park - Tippecanoe River
- Pokagon State Park - Lake James, Snow Lake
- Summit Lake State Park - Summit Lake
- Mounds State Recreation Area - Brookville Lake
- Whitewater Memorial State Park - Brookville Lake
- Charlestown State Park - Ohio River
- Falls of the Ohio State Park - Ohio River
- Harmonie State Park - Wabash River
- O'Bannon Woods State Park - Ohio River
- Prophetstown State Park - Tippecanoe River, Wabash River



Photo courtesy of Sea Grant Great Lakes Network

## **Turkey Run's Eagle Weekend 2010**

The 2010 Eagles In Flight weekend started out touch and go this year, but ended up a resounding success. This was in no small part due to the efforts of volunteers from The Friends of Turkey Run and Shades State Parks.

The weekend began with lots of snow and wind, with more of the same in the forecast. The Friday night presenter had to cancel and it wasn't looking good for the Saturday morning road trip. The 3 naturalists, Sam, Jeff and I, were scrambling madly around to rearrange or cover these programs. I remember at one point stopping and saying, "Look at us, over here at the nature center taking care of program details while registration is going on at the Inn!" I don't know how we could have sailed through the weather fiasco without our volunteers!

And the weekend was magical. Thanks to Alan Bruner we managed to satisfy the audience, who had paid to see *live* owls, with a 3-person tag team owl *mounts* program. We got a screech owl to talk back to us on the owl prowl that night, in spite of a raging snow storm. And multiple owls talked to us during the 2<sup>nd</sup> night's owl prowl.

During the road trips we saw eagles at both nests, eagles on a carcass in Belmore, and eagles coming off the West Union Bridge roost. There was even an eagle flying over the office at Raccoon Lake during our bathroom break! Total eagle sightings for the weekend topped 40!

Staff from Hardy Lake (right) braved slick roads to bring a live rehabilitated eagle for up-close viewing, and Mark Booth wowed everyone with his live hawks and owl. I think the highlight of his program was the great horned owl that courted him with a dead mouse. Many birds were banded thanks to John Schaust, the naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited, many feeders and bird calls made, and many owl pellets dissected.

A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who made this weekend possible. Many of cut a big chunk of time out of busy lives to prepare for or run the event, and to wrap things up afterwards. I hesitate to name names because I'm bound to forget someone, so please forgive an old lady her failing memory and know that I'm very grateful, even if you don't see your name in the list that follows.

Kicking things off is Nancy Swaim. Nancy spent many hours on her own and in the nature center organizing, soliciting items for, picking up items, and setting up the silent auction that made more \$2000 this year for future eagle events and other interpretive needs at the parks. She also helped with set-up and worked at the registration table and helped people make bird calls. Karen Staub and Jean Fisher-Dreihls sat in the bird room and made pin after pin, with some help from Nancy. Karen, always our enthusiastic program supporter, staffed tables throughout the event. Beata St.Clair helped find goodies for the auction and she and Jim worked the registration table. Peggy Foster stepped up to the plate and kept things flowing at the event, trouble shooting and making executive decisions, allowing the naturalists to focus on program issues (and keep panic at bay). She and Dave (and was it Nancy and Lisa?) collected auction money. Cortney and Lily Mycroft worked the registration table, also Ed and Bonnie Allen. Jana Pyle and Lisa Summers helped people make bird feeders and dissect owl pellets. And Marianne Ballenger donated a huge number of items of her own art, representing I don't know how many hours of her time, and generating a large portion of the silent



*Continued on page 4*



*Eagle Watch continued..*

auction proceeds. She also helped throughout the event. Greg Oskay came along as a birding expert on one of the nest tour buses. And many of you donated items for the auction.

Alan Bruner gets his own paragraph! He gave up his entire weekend to the event, and he really made it special. Starting with his expertise and personal stories during the owl program, his amazing eye and information as a bird expert on the nest tour, his presence and information on the roost tour, and his personal tour, via slides, of Indiana's birding hotspots, Alan brought a welcome depth of knowledge to the event and personalized it with stories of his own experiences. The evaluations showed how very much the visitors enjoyed and appreciated his contributions.

Planning is already underway for the 2011 eagle event. If any of you have ideas or comments, please send Sam (sarthur@dnr.IN.gov) or me (bcummings@dnr.IN.gov) an email or give us a call. We strive to build a better program each year, but sitting here thinking about it, I'm having trouble imagining a better Eagles In Flight event than the one that happened this February. And it could not have happened without you! Thank you, our dedicated and trusted volunteers, for choosing to spend your volunteer energy at Turkey Run.

- Barbara Cummings, Feb. 25, 2010

(Interested in helping or participating in Eagle Events but live in Northern Indiana? Visit or call the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services 260-468-2127 or [www.in.gov/dnr/uwis](http://www.in.gov/dnr/uwis) and ask about their Eagle Day).

## **Hot off the DNR Press...**

### **New Web site will connect forestry services**

Markets and marketing a product or service using Internet technology has become a mainstay of many businesses today. Since landowners typically sell timber or seek professional forestry services once or twice in the ownership of the forest, connecting potential sellers and buyers just became easier.

The DNR Division of Forestry has developed an innovative new Web site - [www.INForestryX.com](http://www.INForestryX.com) - that creates a clearinghouse for forestry related commodities and services. The Web site is active now, with additional features in development.

The goals of the Web site include: facilitating trade and commerce of forest products, equipment, materials and services; improving landowner access to the forest product marketplace; and increasing the successful implementation of forest conservation projects by improving access to available conservation work in Indiana and surrounding states.

The Indiana hardwood market is the largest sector of the Indiana agricultural economy. The Indiana forest products industry has a \$17 billion economic impact on the state, which has 4.7 million acres of forested lands, of which 85 percent is privately owned. Indiana ranks first nationally in production of hardwood plywood, wood office furniture, wood kitchen cabinets, manufactured homes and wooden caskets and coffins.

*To see the most up to date news releases visit [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2438.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2438.htm)*

## ***Help Wanted! Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities***

### **Clifty Falls State Park-**

Calling all invasive species removers! Volunteers are needed to remove privet and autumn olive. Privet removal on canyon slopes (steep terrain) near Nature Center would receive a high priority. Volunteer work available Wed-Sun (weekends preferred). Can contact Dick Davis, Interpretive Naturalist, Clifty Falls State Park, 812-273-0609, [ddavis@dnr.in.gov](mailto:ddavis@dnr.in.gov).

### **Turkey Run State Park**

Guest services: assist visitors in the nature center, answer the phone, and help the interpretive naturalist with administrative and clerical needs.

Slide reorganization: Scan and organize the park's slide library.

Non-native invasive plant eradication: Pull garlic mustard and/or cut and herbicide-treat bush honeysuckles, autumn olive and multi-flora rose. Volunteer for a small project, or plug into longer term work.

Historic home maintenance and inventory: Inventory and photograph historic artifacts in the 1841 Salmon Lusk Home and help preserve and maintain one-of-a-kind antiques.

Snake and turtle keeper: Clean and set up habitats, feed, and work with the animals in a live native reptile collection.

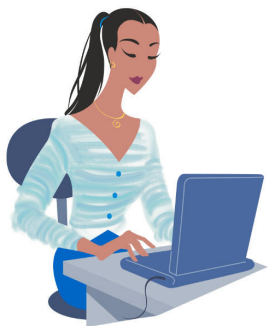
No experience required; all equipment and training provided. Please call Barbara at 765-597-2654 or email [bcummings@dnr.in.gov](mailto:bcummings@dnr.in.gov).

### **Upper Wabash Interpretive Services**

We need your help preparing for future programs and for interpretive center attendees, which would include cleaning. Please contact Marvin McNew at 260-468-2127 or [mmcnew@dnr.in.gov](mailto:mmcnew@dnr.in.gov).

**For more volunteer opportunities check out the special events calendar at**

**<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-SpecialEvents.pdf>. Then contact the property!**



## **Help us become greener! Receive this newsletter through email.**

Join the

Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs Volunteer listserv.

To sign up, simply visit:

**<http://lists.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/sprvolunteer>**

and enter your email address and name. Its that simple!

**\*\*Unless you sign up for the online mailing list, you will continue to receive your Volunteer View newsletter in the mail. Have you signed up and are still receiving your View newsletter through the mail, drop me a line at [jheaston@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jheaston@dnr.in.gov) and let me know.**

*No longer interested in receiving the Volunteer View, please notify me at Ouabache State Park, 4930 E. State Road 201, Bluffton, IN 46714 or*

*Phone: 260-824-0926 or Email: [jheaston@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jheaston@dnr.in.gov)*

*Thanks.*

***Volunteers are special people. You help us  
more than you will ever know.***

“Volunteers let me know that somebody really cares about the property.”

Tim Cordell, CIM  
Interpretive Naturalist  
Potato Creek State Park

“Volunteers reduce my stress level by being there, by doing all the things I just  
would never be able to get to!”

Bett Etenohan  
Interpretive Naturalist  
Falls of the Ohio State Park

“Our volunteers become friends we can call on when we have a special need. We  
know they will be willing to help if they have the time.”

Fred Wooley  
Interpretive Naturalist  
Pokagon State Park



The mission of Indiana's State Parks and Reservoirs is to manage and interpret our properties' unique natural, wildlife and cultural resources using principles of multiple use and preservation, while sustaining the integrity of these resources for current and future generations.

